

Hingtgen, Robert J

From: THEMIGHTYQ <themightyq@inbox.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 14, 2014 10:20 AM
To: Hingtgen, Robert J
Subject: RE: PDS2012-3910-120005, Soitec Solar Development Draft PEIR

RE: Soitec Solar in Boulevard,CA

Please submit this and consider it as my objection to the industrial "solar" businesses planned in Boulevard, Ca 91905.

Aesthetically they are completely out of place. They should not be implanted anywhere near country home sites in the mountains. The counter cliché argument that beauty is in the eye of the beholder is a canard. Yes some people think that a crucifix in a jar of urine is art. However, 99.9 percent do not believe that or that miles of solar panels look good in the majestic mountains.

Boulevard is in a fire hazardous area. This is fact proven by history. Solar heat collecting devices should not be placed in this area obviously. Heat can cause water pipes in such systems to burst, conducting electricity. We don't have a fully staffed or equipped fire department. It is improbable that the fire personnel are trained in the special hazards of solar panel electrical fires. There are 215 firefighters injured each year in the U.S. due to electric shock responding to calls. Has there been research done or training of the firefighters regarding the potential of electrocution by these projects? Should the solar panels burst or become inflamed in our fire prone area, we have the additional hazard of falling glass, slippery surfaces, potential explosions and the increased risk of toxic vapors. Firefighters and the local residents should be provided with special respirators. The insurance costs to the residents become escalated. Have the particular solar products been tested in these large quantities in this type of climate and terrain?

Industrial solar power also has and will require construction of many miles of new high voltage power transmission lines in order to optimize the connections into existing Power Grids. This further increases the fire hazards.

Recent articles have brought to light bird deaths due to miles of solar panel reflections drawing these creatures into the intense heat of the glass. Other wildlife are upset due to complete disruption of the natural surroundings.

In addition to obstructing views, creating fire hazards and destroying habitats, large solar power projects take a toll on the area's scarce water supply. Mirrors and solar panels have to be washed, and some solar projects incorporate steam turbines, which require even more water. In addition, solar projects call for grading the land and sometimes spraying it with chemicals to inhibit dust or plant growth that can reduce the efficiency of solar panels. Also, materials in the panels likely contain toxins that could leak into groundwater, which is the only source of water in this community. There could be a five or ten year latency period before the toxins show up in the aquifers but by then it is too late.

Sites that require huge amounts of land, and water, to generate solar electricity, further restrict any other type of development or use, including any recreational component.

By and large local residents strongly oppose these project for health, safety, environmental, aesthetic, ethical and other reasons. The inhabitants should have the freedom to control the area in which they live and not have industrial blight dictated to them by outsiders, especially when the community plan has always called for an open natural country atmosphere. That's why we moved here. The negative impacts on property values will be in a direct ratio to the proximity to such totally out of place industrial businesses.

There are serious doubts about whether solar is a sustainable industry rather than an unaffordable, infeasible initiative, dependent on subsidies and for the real purpose of promoting crony capitalism. The beneficiary "industrialists" and absentee land owners, i.e. the bag men then funnel a chunk of the money back to the politicians that approve such projects. If we had honest U.S. and California district attorneys, they would seriously investigate the corruption of this cabal that is obvious to the victims.

Boulevard is not a wasteland but rather a beautiful mountainous rural scenic countryside with a night sky that you won't find in the city or near the industrialization that is planned by intruders.

These projects if built should rather be placed in completely uninhabited areas. There are such places, as in only 5.2 percent of continental U.S. land is considered to be developed. Alternatively, they could be located next to the populations that would use most of the output, ideally in an already industrialized location. That would be a fair and reasonable way to handle it. Either bother nobody with it or molest only those that want industrial solar electric. Also, roof top point of use solar is a reasonable voluntary method (except for the forced co-payment by taxpayer subsidizers).

To the the extent that the proposed disruptions to Boulevard are to solve the "global warming crisis," the battle is a complete nugatory mythological bugaboo. An elementary education reveals ice age cycles and melting of them prior to mankind. Cloud cover on any day can cause a temperature change of 5 degrees in minutes. Boulevard can have a 40 degree change in temperature within one day. An alleged projected change of 2 degrees in 100 years is speculative and irrelevant. To the extent that one location would allegedly suffer from such a change, another location would benefit. There is a reason why most of our Canadian neighbors live on their southern border. When Peking, Mexico City and Baja California, just across the border from Boulevard come close to solving their air pollution mess then we could take some additional action here; otherwise it would be a singular vain attempt to solve a global phenomena.

The persons deciding on the proposed industrial projects should determine whether it would be appropriate to place them next to their own families homes. If the answer is no, then they should not abuse their power to the detriment of their neighbor's family. Have you read the bible or do you have fundamental ethics?

Thank you for considering these matters.

Very truly yours,
Barrance Q Zakar
Alpine & Boulevard, Ca.